



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 426

February Session, 2022

Substitute Senate Bill No. 325

Senate, April 12, 2022

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. CASSANO of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN CHARGES
AND REQUIRING APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
HYDRANTS BY WATER COMPANIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of the general statutes, no water company shall assess to a
3 municipality (1) a fire protection charge for a (A) water line that is not
4 connected to a hydrant on the street where such water line is located or
5 that does not have a hydrant connected to it within the municipality, or
6 (B) water line or hydrant that is not owned and maintained by such
7 company, or (2) a linear foot charge or hydrant charge for a water line
8 located on private property.

9 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no water
10 company shall install a hydrant without first obtaining approval for
11 such installation from the chief administrative officer of the
12 municipality and local fire marshal of the municipality or jurisdiction in

- 13 which such hydrant is to be located.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
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PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill prohibits water companies from including certain water lines and fire hydrants in the calculation of a municipality's fire protection charge. This has no fiscal impact, as it is not anticipated to reduce the overall charges a water company levies on a municipality.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 325*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN CHARGES AND REQUIRING APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF HYDRANTS BY WATER COMPANIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits water companies from charging municipalities a fire protection charge for a water line that:

1. is not connected to a fire hydrant on the same street;
2. does not have a fire hydrant connected to it in the same municipality; or
3. the company does not own and maintain, or a hydrant that the company does not own and maintain.

It also prohibits water companies from:

1. charging municipalities a linear foot charge or fire hydrant charge for a water line located on private property or
2. installing a hydrant without first obtaining permission from the chief administrative officer and local fire marshal of the municipality or jurisdiction in which the hydrant will be located.

The bill's prohibitions apply regardless of conflicting state statutes. The bill does not define water company or municipality. Generally, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority regulates the rates of investor-owned water companies and the Department of Public Health regulates other types of water systems.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 2 (03/25/2022)